

There are dozens of trail riding groups, saddle clubs and other horse-related organizations in the state that hold trail ride outings. These range from short pleasure rides to overnight camping trips and competitive events.

There are numerous groups that have specialized trail events, volunteer work days and activities at parks and forests with equestrian facilities. Contact the area managers for a schedule. A special events permit must be obtained from the DNR prior to holding an organized event in state parks, recreation areas and forests under DNR management.



This brochure was printed through a donation by the Iowa Equestrian Trails Council and the Iowa Horse Council (IHC).

The IHC is a volunteer based, non-profit organization that believes in the value of horses and horse activities. The IHC serves and supports the entire horse industry through communication, education and promotion. For more information about IHC or how to become a member, please visit their website at [www.iowahorsecouncil.com](http://www.iowahorsecouncil.com)

## RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE PARKS, RECREATION AREAS AND FORESTS

### To Prevent Erosion & Preserve Your Natural Resources

—Call ahead for current trail conditions.

—**Always stay on marked equestrian trails – do not make short cuts.** Trail renovation is costly. By staying on the designated trails, you are doing your part to protect these natural areas for the future.

—Cross streams only at designated areas.

—After camping, the hitch rail area or stall should be raked and left clean.

—Tying animals to any vegetation is prohibited.

—State parks and recreation areas have a “Carry In/Carry Out” litter policy in all areas except campgrounds.

### For Safety

—Be careful with campfires. Clear the area around the fire ring and never leave fires unattended.

—Horse racing or running in camp areas is strictly prohibited.

—Recognize that other park users such as hunters and hikers may be unfamiliar with or afraid of horses.

—All pets must be caged or leashed.

—Be aware that hunting is permitted in all state recreation areas and forests except within developed facilities such as campgrounds.

### Stabling

—In designated campgrounds in all state areas, animals must be stabled inside a horse trailer; or at a hitch rail, individual stalls or a corral when provided. This practice reduces unnecessary damage to the campsites.

—Animals may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time to allow for grooming and saddling.

—Animals may be stabled at trailers where no hitching facilities are provided.

—Portable stalls/pens are not allowed.

—Staking out or hobbles prohibited.

### DNR Equestrian Facilities

—Please notify DNR of any dangerous areas or conditions.

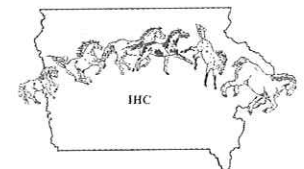
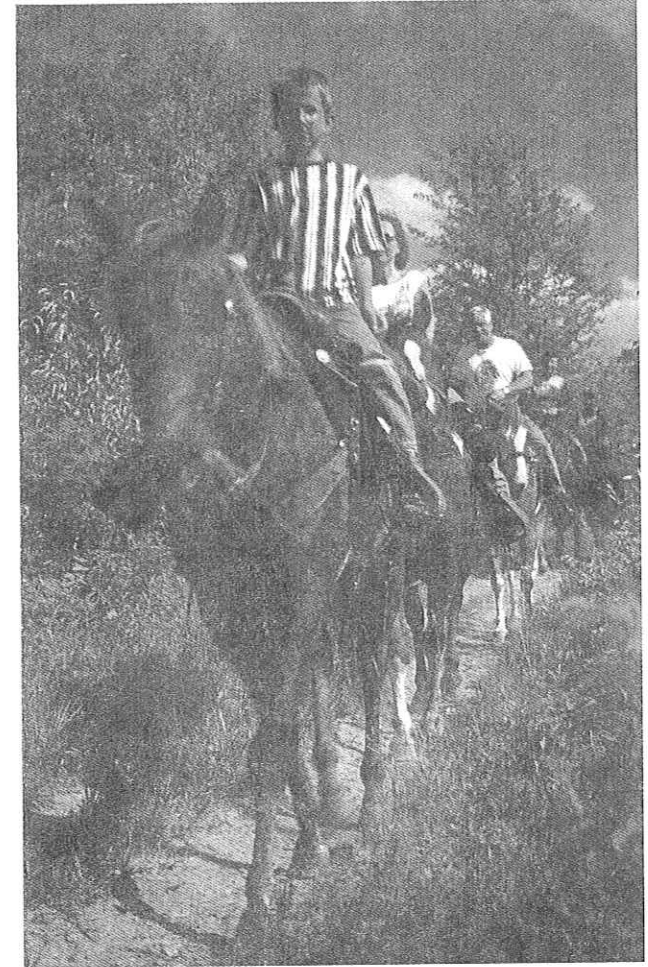
—Campers must self-register in campground.

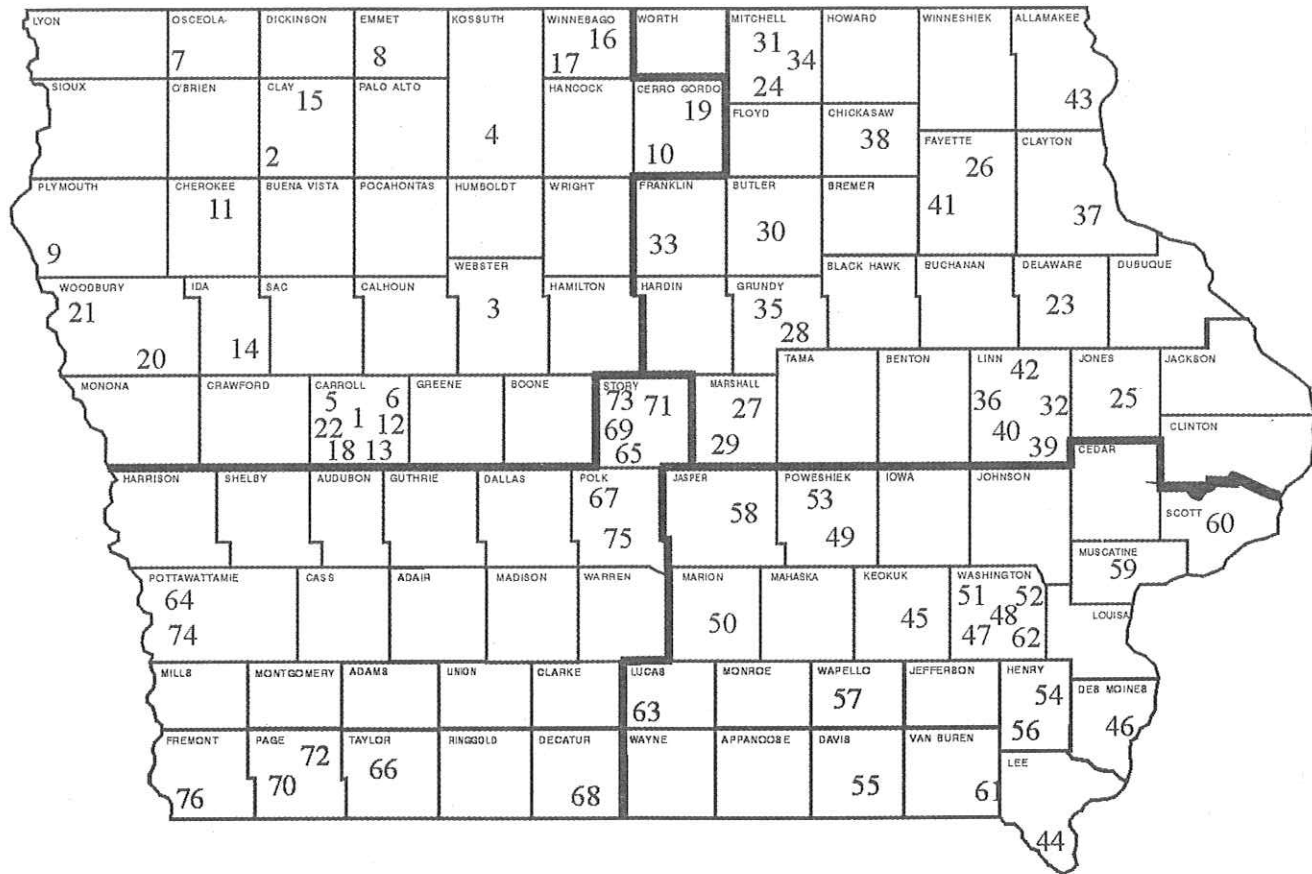
—Equestrian day-users must park in the equestrian day-use area if provided, not in campground.

—These public lands are for your use and enjoyment. Do what you can to help maintain and preserve these trails.

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility mentioned in this publication, please write to Director; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington D.C. 20240.

# Trail Riding In Iowa





The State of Iowa offers a wide variety of equestrian trail opportunities on 76 state and county areas. These trails vary in length from 1 to 50 miles. Equestrian camping is provided in 45 areas which range from modern to primitive. Equestrian trails are generally open in early spring until the first snowfall. However, trails may be temporarily closed throughout the season if they are determined to be too wet for riding. Call ahead for trail conditions, as information is available from individual area managers at the phone numbers provided.

Please look at the chart on the back for information regarding facilities and other amenities available in these state and county areas.

Individual state park, recreation area and forest brochures are available at the respective parks. These brochures contain more information specific to the area including an area map and trail layout. Brochures may also be obtained by calling the DNR at 515/281-5918. All brochures and maps are available as downloadable pdf files at [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com).

#### NORTHWEST REGION

1. Bennett Area
2. Bertram Reservation
3. Brushy Creek Recreation Area
4. Burt Lake
5. Butrick Bluff Area
6. Dickson Timber
7. Ed Winkel Memorial Trail
8. Ft. Defiance State Park
9. Hillview Recreation Area
10. Lime Creek Conservation Area
11. Martin Area Access
12. Merritt Access
13. Middle Raccoon River Access
14. Moorehead Park
15. Oneota Little Sioux Access
16. Pilot Knob State Park
17. Russ Wildlife Area & Thorpe Park
18. Russell White Nature Trail
19. Shell Rock River Greenbelt
20. Southwood Conservation Area
21. Stone State Park
22. Swan Lake State Park

#### NORTHEAST REGION

23. Backbone State Forest
24. Cedar River Greenbelt
25. Central Park
26. Gilbertson Conservation Ed. Area
27. Grammer Grove
28. Grundy County Greenbelt
29. Heart of Iowa Nature Trail
30. Heery Woods State Park
31. Interstate Park
32. Matsell Bridge Natural Area
33. Maynes Grove
34. Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area
35. Pioneer Trail
36. Pleasant Creek Recreation Area
37. Pony Hollow Trail
38. Price Wildlife Habitat

39. South Cedar Natural Area
40. Squaw Creek Park
41. Volga River Recreation Area
42. Wakpicada Natural Area
43. Yellow River Forest

#### SOUTHEAST REGION

44. Amborn-Pagin Wildlife Area
45. Belva Deer County Park
46. Big Hollow Creek Recreation Area
47. Brinton Timber
48. Clemons Creek Wildlife Area
49. Deep River Timber Reserve
50. Elk Rock State Park
51. English River Wildlife Area
52. Fern Cliff Area
53. Fox Forest Area
54. Gibson Recreation Area
55. Oakland Mills Park
56. McGowen Recreation Area
57. Pioneer Ridge Nature Area
58. Rock Creek State Park
59. Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area
60. Scott County Park
61. Shimek State Forest
62. Sockum Ridge
63. Stephens State Forest

#### SOUTHWEST REGION

64. Arrowhead County Park
65. Heart of Iowa Nature Trail
66. Lake of Three Fires State Park
67. Lewis A. Jester Park
68. Nine Eagles State Park
69. Peterson Park
70. Pierce Creek Recreation Area
71. Prairie Rail Trail
72. Nodaway Valley Park
73. Skunk River Greenbelt
74. Wabash Trail
75. Walnut Woods State Park
76. Waubonsie State Park



# Good Trail Etiquette

Ride only on open designated trails. *Call ahead* to be sure that your favorite trails are open. Certain conditions may required that they be temporarily closed.

When meeting others, *move to the right* of the trail.

Bikers should *yield* to hikers and animals. Never spook animals.

*Alert* any trail user by speaking when you approach them, especially from behind. If wishing to pass, indicate your desire verbally and wait until safe passage is possible. Riders and/or cyclists may need to dismount and move off the trail. Back horses off the trail when kicking may be foreseen.

Horses known to kick should wear a **red ribbon** on the tail.

Stallions should wear a **yellow ribbon** on the tail.

Control your bicycle or animal. *No racing/running.*

Map #	Park Name	Managing Agency	Phone #	Directions	Trail Terrains (S) steep (O) open (F) flat	Camping * (M) modern (N) nonmodern (P) primitive	Restrooms (C) campground (D) day-use areas	Water (C) campground (D) day-use areas	Parking (C) campground (D) day-use areas	Hitching (C) campground (D) day-use areas	Electric Sites	Nonelectric Sites	
NORTHWEST REGION													
1	Bennett Area	Carroll County	712/792-4614	4 mi. E, 2 mi. N of Glidden	3	F	P	0	5	-	-	C,D	D
2	Bertram Reservation	Clay County	712/262-2187	2 mi. E of Peterson	4	S,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
3	Brushy Creek Rec Area	DNR	515/543-8298	5 mi. E of Lehigh on D46	50	S,O,F	M,N,P	120	97	C,D	C,D	C,D	C,D
4	Burt Lake	Kossuth County	515/295-2138	4 mi. W, 1 mi. N of Swea City	1.5	F	N	6	10	C,D	C,D	C,D	-
5	Butrick Bluff Area	Carroll County	712/792-4614	3 mi. N of Glidden	4	S	P	-	-	-	-	D	D
6	Dickson Timber**	Carroll County	712/792-4614	3.5 mi. NE of Glidden	3	S	N	0	5	D	D	C,D	C,D
7	Ed Winkel Memorial Trail	Osceola County	712/758-3709	Sibley to Allendorf	6	F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
8	Fort Defiance State Park	DNR	712/362-2078	1 mi. W of Estherville, Hwy 9	1	S,F	-	-	-	D	D	D	D
9	Hillview Recreation Area	Plymouth County	712/947-4270	1 mi. W of Hinton	3	S,O,F	M,N	46	10	C,D	C,D	D	-
10	Lime Creek Conservation Area	Cerro Gordo County	641/423-5309	1 mi. N of Mason City	7.6	S,O,F	P	0	1	D	D	D	D
11	Martin Area Access (roads only)	Cherokee County	712/225-5959	4.7 mi. E of Larrabee	2.5	F	P	0	21	C	C	C	C
12	Merritt Access	Carroll County	712/792-4614	4 mi. NE of Glidden	2	F	P	0	10	-	-	C,D	D
13	Middle Raccoon River Access	Carroll County	712/792-4614	3 mi. NW of Coon Rapids	5	S	P	-	-	-	-	D	D
14	Moorehead Park	Ida County	712/364-3300	.5 mi. N of Ida Grove	2.5	O,F	-	-	-	D	D	D	D
15	Oneota Little Sioux Access	Clay County	712/262-2187	1 mi. E of Spencer	5	O,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
16	Pilot Knob State Park	DNR	641/581-4835	4 mi. E of Forest City, Hwy 9	8.5	S	-	-	-	C	D	D	D
17	Russ Wildlife Area & Thorpe Pk	Winnebago County	641/565-3390	6 mi. W of Forest City	3	O	N	0	12	-	C,D	C,D	-
18	Russell White Nature Trail	Carroll County	712/792-4614	Lanesboro to Hwy 286	3	F	P	-	-	-	-	D	D
19	Shell Rock River Greenbelt	Cerro Gordo County	641/423-5309	295 SE of Co. S62, S of Rock Falls	7.5	S,O,F	P	0	1	D	D	D	D
20	Southwood Conservation Area	Woodbury County	712/258-0838	1 mi. SW of Smithland	5	S,O,F	M	0	3	C,D	C,D	C,D	C,D
21	Stone State Park	DNR	712/255-4698	8 mi. NW of Sioux City on Hwy 12	6.5	S	-	-	-	D	D	D	D
22	Swan Lake State Park	Carroll County	712/792-4614	2 mi. SE of Carroll	1.5	O,F	-	-	-	D	D	D	D
NORTHEAST REGION													
23	Backbone State Forest	DNR	563/924-2527	2 mi. SW of Strawberry Pt, adjacent to Backbone State Park	5	F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
24	Cedar River Greenbelt Trail	Mitchell County	641/732-5204	1.5 mi. W of Osage	4.5	S,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
25	Central Park (ride on roads only)	Jones County	319/487-3541	2 mi. W of Center Junction	2	O	-	-	-	D	D	D	-
26	Gilbertson Conservation Ed. Area	Fayette County	563/426-5740	E edge of Elgin	5	S	N	28	20	C,D	C,D	C,D	D
27	Grammer Grove	Marshall County	641/754-6303	3 mi. SW of Liscomb	1	O	P	0	group	C	C	C	-
28	Grundy County Greenbelt	Grundy County	319/345-2688	Reinbeck, Commercial Street	2	F	N	-	group	C	-	C	C
29	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	Marshall County	641/754-6303	Enter from Rhodes	4.3	O	-	-	-	D	D	D	-
30	Heery Woods State Park	Butler County	319/278-4237	S edge of Clarksville	1	F	N	-	-	C,D	C,D	C,D	-
31	Interstate Park	Mitchell County	641/732-5204	West of Mitchell	2	S,O,F	M	25	15	C	C	C	-
32	Matsell Bridge Natural Area	Linn County	319/892-6450	2.5 mi. N of Viola	6.3	O,F	N	0	8	C,D	D	C,D	C
33	Maynes Grove	Franklin County	641/456-4375	1.5 mi. SW of Popejoy	2	O,F	-	-	-	-	D	D	D
34	Pinicon Alders Wildlife Area	Mitchell County	641/732-5204	1/2 mi. NW of McIntire	1.5	F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-



35	Pioneer Trail	Grundy County	319/345-2688	Grundy Center to Holland, Marion to Reinbeck	11	F	See amenities for Grundy Co. Greenbelt					D	-
36	Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	DNR	319/436-7716	4.5 mi. NW of Palo	15	S,F	P	0	2	-	C	D	C
37	Pony Hollow Trail	Clayton County	563/245-1516	Elkader City Recreation Area	4	F	M	70	40	C	C	C,D	C
38	Price Wildlife Habitat	Chickasaw County	641/394-4714	Alta Vista to New Hampton	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
39	South Cedar Natural Area	Linn County	319/892-6450	3 mi. SW of Mount Vernon	.5-1	F	N	0	10	C,D	C	C,D	-
40	Squaw Creek Park	Linn County	319/892-6450	1 mi. S of Marion	4	S,O,F	N	0	group	C,D	C,D	C,D	-
41	Volga River State Rec Area	DNR	563/425-4161	4 mi. N of Fayette	25	O	N	0	20	C,D	-	C,D	C,D
42	Wakpicada Natural Area	Linn County	319/892-6450	1 mi. S of Central City	1	F	N	0	10	C	-	C,D	-
43	Yellow River Forest	DNR	563/586-2254	14 mi. SE of Waukon	20	S,F	N	0	40	C,D	-	C,D	C,D
<b>SOUTHEAST REGION</b>													
44	Amborn-Pagin Wildlife Area	Lee County	319/463-7673	Argyle Rd. (Hwy 82) 340th St.	1.5	S,O,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	D
45	Belva Deer County Park**	Keokuk County	641/622-3757	5 mi. SE of Sigourney on 235th Ave	8	O	N	-	group	C	C	C	C
46	Big Hollow Creek Rec Area	Des Moines County	319/753-8260	2.5 mi. W, 5 mi. N of Dodgeville	5	S,O,F	N	-	group	C,D	C,D	D	D
47	Brinton Timber	Washington County	319/657-2400	5 mi. NW of Brighton	4	S	N	-	-	D	-	D	-
48	Clemons Creek Wildlife Area	Washington County	319/657-2400	2 mi. W of Washington	2	S,F	P	-	-	-	-	D	-
49	Deep River Timber Reserve	Poweshiek County	641/623-3191	2 mi. E, 1 mi. N of Deep River	0.5	S,O,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
50	Elk Rock State Park**	DNR	641/842-6008	7 mi. N of Knoxville	13	F	M	24	36	C,D	C	C,D	C,D
51	English River Wildlife Area	Washington County	319/657-2400	5 mi. SE of Wellman	2	F	P	-	-	-	-	D	-
52	Fern Cliff Area	Washington County	319/657-2400	12 mi. SE of Washington	1	S	N	-	-	D	-	D	-
53	Fox Forest Area	Poweshiek County	641/623-3191	.5 mi. W of Montezuma	1.5	S,O,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
54	Gibson Recreation Area	Henry County	319/986-5067	6 mi. SW of Mt. Pleasant	1.5	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
55	McGowen Recreation Area	Davis County	641/664-2572	2 mi. E of Bloomfield on Co Rd J-40	2	O,F	-	-	-	D	D	D	-
56	Oakland Mills Park	Henry County	319/986-5067	4 mi. SW of Mt. Pleasant on W55	1.5	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
57	Pioneer Ridge Nature Area	Wapello County	641/682-3091	6 mi. S of Ottumwa	15	S,O,F	-	-	-	D	D	D	D
58	Rock Creek State Park	DNR	641/236-3722	6 mi. NE of Kellogg	14	O,F	-	-	-	D	D	D	D
59	Saulsbury Bridge Rec Area	Muscatine County	563/649-3379	8 mi. NE of Muscatine	5	F	-	-	-	D	D	D	-
60	Scott County Park	Scott County	563/328-3282	3 mi. E of Long Grove	3	F	P	0	5	C	C	C	-
61	Shimek State Forest**	DNR	319/878-3811	3 mi. E of Farmington, Hwy 2	27	S,F	N	0	35	C	C	C,D	C
62	Sockum Ridge	Washington County	319/657-2400	5 mi. SE of Washington	2	S	N	-	-	D	-	D	-
63	Stephens State Forest	DNR	641/774-5632	3 mi. W of Lucas off Hwy 65	31	S,F	N	0	36	C	C	C,D	C,D
<b>SOUTHWEST REGION</b>													
64	Arrowhead County Park	Pottwattamie County	712/328-5638	1 mi. E of Neola, Co Road 255	3	S,O	M	58	100	C,D	C,D	C,D	-
65	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	Story County	515/232-2516	Slater to Melbourne	32	S,F	N	5	0	C,D	C,D	D	-
66	Lake of Three Fires State Park	DNR	712/523-2700	3 mi. NE of Bedford, Hwy 49	8	O,F	M	8	18	C,D	C,D	C,D	C,D
67	Lewis A. Jester Park**	Polk County	515/323-5300	3 mi. NE of Granger	12	S,O,F	-	-	-	D	-	D	-
68	Nine Eagles State Park	DNR	641/442-2855	6 mi. SE of Davis City	6	S	N	0	7	D	C,D	D	D
69	Peterson Park	Story County	515/232-2516	1.75 mi. E of Hwy 69	3.7	F	-	-	-	D	-	D	-
70	Pierce Creek Recreation Area	Page County	712/542-3864	4 mi. N, 1 mi. E of Shennandoah	10	S,O,F	M	12	8	C,D	C,D	C,D	-
71	Prairie Rail Trail	Story County	515/232-2516	Roland to Zearing	10.5	F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
72	Nodaway Valley	Page County	712/542-3864	2 mi. N of Clarinda	5	S,O,F	M	12	2	C,D	C	C,D	-
73	Skunk River Greenbelt	Story County	515/232-2516	E18 Greenbelt Access	2.5	S,F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
74	Wabash Trail	Pottwattamie County	712/328-5638	Council Bluffs to Mineola	10	F	-	-	-	-	-	D	-
75	Walnut Woods State Park	DNR	515/285-4502	4 mi. SW of Des Moines, Hwy 5	2.3	F	-	-	-	D	D	D	-
76	Waubonsie State Park**	DNR	712/382-2786	6 mi. SW of Sidney on Hwy 2	8	S	N	0	32	C,D	C,D	C,D	C,D

\*Modern has flushable toilets and showers; Nonmodern has no showers and either flush toilets or pit latrines; Primitive camping has no showers or restrooms of any kind.

Riding double is unsafe and discouraged.

Do not remove or rearrange trail markings. Follow trail sign instructions.

Take no alcoholic beverages onto the trail.

Leave no trace. Carry out any trash found on the trail.

Remove all manure/trash from the parking area, carry a shovel, broom or rake within the trailer.

Plan ahead. Know the trail, carry a map, compass, watch and emergency supplies.

Leave the wild, wild and enjoy the trails!

**RIDE IOWA!**

Practice good sportsmanship and share these etiquette rules among multi-use trail users. Be an ambassador for your sport.